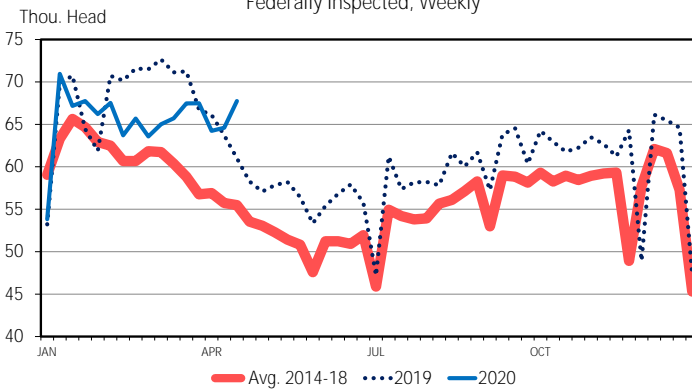


Note: In the DLR on 4/28/20, Canadian cattle on feed statistics were reported incorrectly in the text (graphics were correct) where cattle placements and marketings were supposed to be in thousand head and not million head. A revised version of the DLR can be found [here](#). We apologize for any confusion.

Dairy cow slaughter in the first quarter of 2020 has been tracking slightly above the five-year average, but below the same quarter in 2019. The first quarter of 2019 saw weekly slaughter levels that had not occurred since the first quarter of 2013. Recently, dairy cow slaughter was 67,748 head for the week of April 18, 2020, which is the third-highest weekly slaughter for 2020. The prior two weekly highs both occurred in January this year. Typically, dairy cow slaughter starts off the year at peak levels and declines through the second quarter with a bottom usually occurring at the start of the third quarter then rising in the fourth quarter.

### DAIRY COW SLAUGHTER Federally Inspected, Weekly

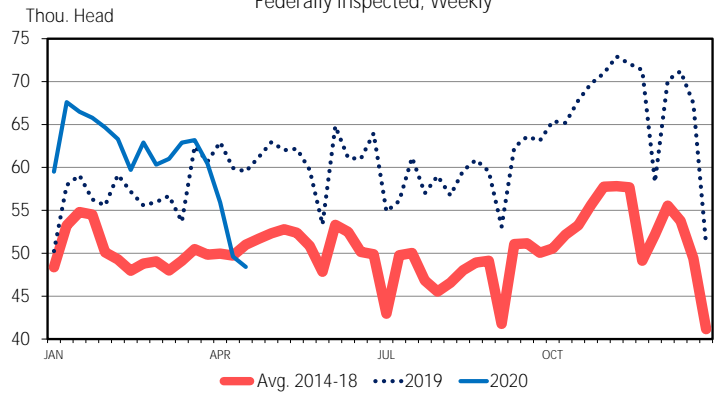


Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-35  
04/17/20

Since the start of the year, beef cow slaughter had been above the same week last year, until mid-March before dropping off drastically. Since mid-March, beef cow slaughter has declined 23.4% in just four weeks to almost 48,000 head for the week of April 18, 2020. This is a counter-seasonal move and a level typically seen around holidays and well below the five-year average for this time of year. The decline in beef cow slaughter is driven by similar disruptions in non-fed kill plants that is effecting fed cattle slaughter related to COVID-19. Slaughter data is lagged two weeks, and so the graphics are reflecting situations prior to the Executive order announced this week. Non-fed plants, although have not been as widely announced in closure lists, are still effected by labor shortages, absenteeism, and adjusted work situations to address safety. Lower prices could also be discouraging producers to

### BEEF COW SLAUGHTER Federally Inspected, Weekly



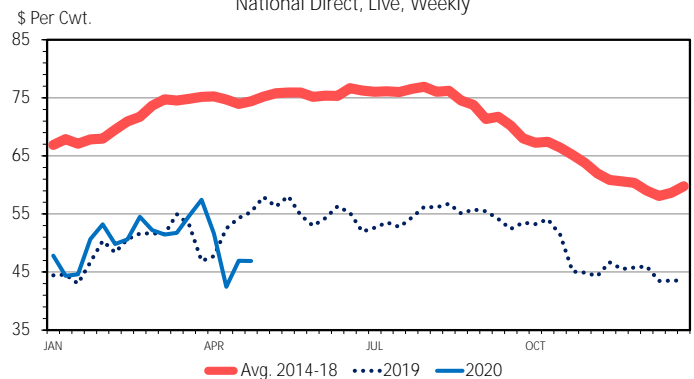
Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-34  
04/17/20

bring cows to market.

Through mid-April, cull cow prices have been averaging \$50.06 per cwt which is slightly above the same period last year (\$49.87 per cwt) but well below the five-year average of \$71.83 per cwt. Despite the struggling cull cow prices, dairy slaughter continues at a strong pace. For beef cattle, the lower cull cow prices may be leading cattle producers to consider retaining cattle longer in hopes of improved market conditions. Retaining cattle will depend on pasture conditions and available forage. As discussed in yesterday's DLR, drought conditions continue to spread in the U.S. which may increasingly become a factor in producer decisions if drought conditions worsen.

### CUTTER COW PRICES National Direct, Live, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

09/09/19

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